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# Weekly Special Report



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## Bush Vows United States Will Defeat Terrorists in Iraq

President Bush vowed that the United States will not flinch from fighting terrorism in Iraq or from seeing that democracy, prosperity and hope are spread throughout the Middle East.

In a speech June 28, Bush said that the sacrifice that the United States is making to bring democracy to Iraq is worthwhile because success in Iraq is vital to U.S. security and to the global cause of freedom.



**US President George W. Bush delivers a televised address to the nation at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.**

as freedom takes root in Iraq, it will inspire millions across the Middle East to claim their liberty as well. And when the Middle East grows in democracy, prosperity, and hope, the terrorists will lose their sponsors, lose their recruits, and lose their hopes for turning that region into a base for attacks on America and our allies around the world," Bush said.

The terrorists, both Iraqi and foreign, "know that

The president said the terrorists, despite their "savage acts of vio-

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## United States Launches a Music CD Entitled "We Shall Survive" to Fight AIDS in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy) – On June 29, The United States Government in partnership with Ethiopian artists, launched a Music CD, entitled "We Shall Survive – a Music for Life Project," to support the fight



against HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia. Funding was provided by President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Ser-

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## Bush Vows United States Will Defeat Terrorists . . .

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lence," are not achieving their strategic goals. He said the only way that the enemies of the United States can succeed is if the United States forgets the lessons of September 11, 2001 – something he vowed would not happen while he is president.

Bush noted that since sovereignty was restored to Iraq one year ago, Iraqis have held elections for a transitional government, are drafting a constitution, and are planning more elections for the end of the 2005. He noted that progress is being made in improving the educational and health systems and in rebuilding the infrastructure.

More than 30 nations have troops in Iraq and many others are contributing nonmilitary assistance, Bush said.

"Thus far, some 40 countries and three international organizations have pledged about 34 billion dollars in assistance for Iraqi reconstruction," Bush said. "And next month, donor countries will meet in Jordan to support Iraqi reconstruction."

Regarding the question of setting a deadline for withdrawing U.S. forces from Iraq, Bush said such

an action would be a "serious mistake" in that it would send the wrong message to the Iraqi people, U.S. troops and the terrorists.

He also said that the United States does not need to send more troops to Iraq at this time.



**President Bush greets troops after an address during a visit to Fort Bragg, N.C. Tuesday June 28, 2005, on the one year anniversary of sovereignty being passed to Iraq.**

"Sending more Americans would undermine our strategy of encouraging Iraqis to take the lead in this fight. And sending more Americans would suggest that we intend to stay forever – when we are in fact working for the day when Iraq can defend itself and we can leave," he said.

In order to bolster the Iraqi security forces, Bush said the United States is taking three steps:

-- Partnering Coalition units with Iraqi units to show Iraqis "how the most professional armed forces in the world operate in combat;"

-- Embedding Coalition transition teams inside Iraqi units to provide "battlefield advice and assistance to Iraqi forces during combat operations;" and

-- Working with Iraq's Defense and Interior Ministries to improve their capabilities to coordinate anti-terrorist operations.

Bush said that on the political front, Iraq's constitutional committee plans to include more Sunni Arabs, and many Sunnis who opposed the elections in January are now participating in the political process.

"As Iraqis see that their military can protect them, more will step for-

ward with vital intelligence to help defeat the enemies of a free Iraq. The combination of political and military reform will lay a solid foundation for a free and stable Iraq," Bush said. ♦

**Full text of President Bush's speech is available on our web page:**  
<http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov>

## United States Launches a Music CD Entitled “We Shall Survive” to Fight . . .

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vices Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Joining U.S. Ambassador Aurelia E. Brazeal at the inauguration were Dr. Tadesse Wuhib, CDC Country Director Mr. Yayeyirad Alamerew, the music CD's Production Manager, and Mr. Abegassu Kibrework Shiota, Arranger and Keyboardist, together with the artists who participated in the production, representatives from the Government of Ethiopia, NGOs, and the U.S. Embassy.

The CD consists of 14 songs sung by some of the finest Ethiopian artists residing in both the United States and Ethiopia. The CD was over one and a half years in the making. The 39 artists including 21 vocalists who participated in this historic effort were : Abebe Birhane, Abebe Desalegn, Abegassu Shiota, Abenet Agonafir, Abonesh Adinew, Adanech Woldegebriel, Akuri Degefu, Aster Aweke, Bezawork Asfaw, Birhanu Tezera, Dagmawi Tilahun, Daniel Vessby, Dawit Frew, Dawit Melesse, Elias Melka, Elias Tebabe, Fasil Wuhib, Fikeraddis Nekatebeb, Girum Mezmur, Henok Abebe, Henok Mehari, Johnny Raga, HHHHKassahun Eshetu, Mulatu Astatke, Mulugeta Abate, Nebiy Mekonen, Neway Debebe, Samson Juffar, Seyoum Mamo, Tadele Roba, Tadesse Alemu, Tadesse Wuhib (Dr.), Teshager Shiferaw, Tewodros Mekonen, Tewodros Tadesse, Tigist Fantahun, Tsedenia Gebremarkos, Yared Tefera, and Yayeyirad Alamerew.

The lyrics, scientifically pre-tested among various focus groups including youth and people living with HIV/AIDS in Ethiopia, encourage the listener:

- to delay initiation of sexual debut; to remain faithful to one partner;
- to use condoms consis-

families;

- to live positively if HIV-infected;
- to understand AIDS as everyone's problem;
- to join and win the battle against AIDS; and
- to honor those heroes fighting the disease.



**Ambassador Brazeal (center) speaking at the launch of the music for life CD flanked by Ato Yayehirad Almirew (left) and Dr. Tadesse Wihib**

- tently and correctly;
- to give value to one's life;
- to care for children as they are the future generation;
- to get tested for the sake of self, family, children, and companion;
- to avoid stigmatizing and discriminating against people infected with, or affected by HIV/AIDS;
- to support people living with HIV/AIDS and their

Speaking at the inauguration, Ambassador Brazeal encouraged Ethiopians everywhere to protect themselves and their families from HIV/AIDS and to spread the multiple messages in the CD's by sharing it with their families, friends and colleagues. ♦



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## Financial Experts Discuss Africa's Economic Future

By Bruce Greenberg  
Washington File Staff Writer

Baltimore, Maryland -- If Africa is to succeed as a world economic power, a number of factors must be in place: stable and corruption-free governments; a viable infrastructure of highways, airports and railways; an atmosphere that encourages individual entrepreneurship and investment; ready access to natural resources; and a growing middle class.

This was the conclusion reached by a distinguished panel of bankers and financial experts, including April H. Foley, first vice president and vice chair of the U.S. Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im Bank), and David Loevinger, deputy assistant secretary for Africa, the Middle East and Asia at the U.S. Treasury Department, who were assembled June 24 for the final morning plenary of the Corporate Council on Africa's (CCA's) fifth annual U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Baltimore.

Africa is making huge strides on the road to economic development, Foley said, and never before has there been so much attention in the United States and around the world toward providing Africa the opportunity to develop. The Group of Eight (G8, consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and Russia) agreement on debt relief and pledges for additional assistance from the United States and the United Kingdom will significantly improve Africa's credit strength, she added, "so I encourage Africans to seize this critical opportunity in history."

The Ex-Im Bank provides financ-

ing to support U.S. exports, Foley explained, while enabling American companies to do business in so-called high-risk markets. It also helps Africans purchase high-quality U.S. goods and services, such as construction, oil and mining equipment, at attractive rates.

Ex-Im Bank will examine a country's capacity for repaying loans, Foley said, "but even if a country does not have an excellent credit rating, we are open for structured or project financing ... and will find ways of structuring finance programs for countries with shaky credit histories."



Investors are looking for reliable transportation and telecommunications systems, Foley said, and want to know the degree of political and social progress in a given country. Therefore, she added, a nation must have solid legal, judicial, and banking systems, transparency in corporate accounting standards, and ethical business practices if it is going to conduct international business successfully.

Strong banks are critical to the ability of people to move money, she said, so "it's interesting to note what Nigeria is doing [in this sphere]. This will be a cornerstone for their economic development in the future."

Corruption is a serious deterrent to investment, she said, warning her audience, "If corruption is a problem in your country, you need to address it aggressively, for it is clearly a barrier to investment."

"People are key to success, so well-trained employees with proper skills are essential," she said. Once a country has one or more marketable resources, it is vital to exploit this by ensuring that the country's educational system is able to produce skilled specialists in engineering, marketing and telecommunications.

With the newly created opportunities for international aid assistance from the United States and other countries, Foley said, "Africa is really winning the Millennium Challenge sweepstakes," which is all the more reason for African countries to have "a strategic game plan to achieve economic success."

This can be done by first identifying the marketable resources exchanged for hard currency, then reinvesting cash flows generated from these resources to build a more diversified economy, Foley added.

The Millennium Challenge Account is a U.S. supplementary aid program launched by President Bush to reward poor nations that invest in the education and health care of their citizens, fight corruption and promote good governance.

Treasury's Loevinger warned that although growth in Africa is at an eight-year high and inflation is lowest in a generation, the continent

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## USAID Partnering to Help Africans Help Themselves Out of Poverty

By Bruce Greenberg  
Washington File Staff Writer

Baltimore, Maryland -- AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases in Africa not only affect people's health but also have a cumulative negative effect on domestic economies, according to U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Andrew S. Natsios. He says that his agency is helping to do something about that.

Natsios spoke June 23 at the fifth annual U.S.-Africa Business Summit (June 22-24) in Baltimore, organized by the Corporate Council on Africa. The summit, billed as the largest event of its kind in the United States, draws several thousand attendees -- trade and finance ministers, businessmen and leaders -- from Africa as well as from the United States to strengthen trade and investment ties between the United States and 53 African countries.

To illustrate his point, Natsios related how during a trip to Darfur in western Sudan before the recent upheavals there, he was surprised when local village elders did not come out to greet his party. It was in the middle of the harvest season, he recalled, but the millet had not been cut. Instead, birds were feasting on the grain.

"If you know Africa," he said, "you know that Africans are some of the most hospitable people in the world," so this failure of hospitality was striking. He soon found out that almost all the villagers had malaria and were too sick to move.

"I realized how this disease can affect people's health and their livelihoods," he said. "So when we

deal with these issues, we have to deal with them holistically at [US] AID. We don't look at anything in a narrow way."

In sub-Saharan Africa, Natsios said, more than 2 million people die annually from malaria and many more succumb to AIDS-



related complications even as millions more become newly infected with the virus. With the losses through

death and the effects of the debilitating illnesses that prevent people from working, public services suffer, children are not properly educated, and economies begin to atrophy, he said.

Natsios described projects USAID is spearheading to control the ravages of malaria among Africa's populations by working with public and private entities like NetMark, a regional partnership that helps distribute insecticide-treated bednets through the commercial sector to boost malaria prevention, which has facilitated \$66 million dollars' worth of business over the past eight years.

"We want to form viable markets so that these bednets are made in Africa, sold in Africa to Africans," Natsios explained. "To create demand for these nets, we are making them available to those who can pay, and providing discount vouchers to those who cannot, while eliminating taxes and tariffs.

"We've developed consumer marketing campaigns to create a demand, while educating people about their use. These 20 million nets will prevent a quarter-million to a half-million deaths from malaria annually," Natsios said.

In addition to its mosquito bednet program, USAID is also field-testing new drugs such as "combo-therapies" that use derivatives from a wormwood plant found in Asia to combat drug-resistant forms of malaria. At the same time, the agency is working with partners in the field to negotiate with Africa's agriculture producers to encourage farmers to cultivate more of these anti-malaria plants.

"There are some 286 partnering alliances, and we've injected \$1.1 million into them, with an appropriate amount of private funds. They are now not only working in the areas of malaria and HIV/AIDS control, but also in agriculture, in trade-capacity building. We need to combine the private sector with the public, so we can accelerate and assist Africans in their own efforts to grow their markets while dealing with these types of health issues," he said.

Responding to a question regarding the role of health and disease prevention in USAID's overall program agenda, Natsios said his agency's budget is multifaceted, with approximately \$2 billion of his budget going to health-related issues and about 45 percent of that to HIV/AIDS.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦*

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## African Economies Primed by Sustainable Investment

By Bruce Greenberg  
Washington File Staff Writer

Baltimore, Maryland -- Things are looking up for Africa, according to the presidents of Zambia and Madagascar, as a new economic agenda of aid, trade and investment is being written, largely by Africans themselves. The two presidents addressed the 2005 U.S.-Africa Business Summit, being held June 22-24 in Baltimore.

In his remarks at the opening of the conference, which is sponsored by the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), CCA President Steve Hayes noted that the countries of the Group of Eight (G8) say they are ready to wipe clean decades-old debts incurred by a post-colonial continent, while foreign direct investment in Africa exceeded \$20 billion in 2004.

Trade incentives and interest-free loans and grants under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), are beginning to pump billions of dollars into the economies of some of the poorest nations on earth, he added.

But it was presidents Marc Ravalomanana of Madagascar and Levy P. Mwanawasa of Zambia who set the tone at the business forum by touting Africa's new economic muscle -- which comes from providing the stable, safe and progressive societies that attract foreign investment while still offering a cheap, plentiful labor force and

valuable natural resources.

Ravalomanana pointed out that Madagascar was the first country to sign an agreement with the United States government's Millennium Challenge Corporation, which has extended a four-year, \$110



million commitment to assist that country in its economic reforms, thus acknowledging its democratic and economic potential.

"Now is the time for the world to focus on Africa," he proclaimed. "But how do we become the African tiger? We need a Marshall Plan for Africa ... a Marshall Plan of our own ... not only [to] invest in our resources, capital and factories, but also our children, our women and young men."

Africans need a fair chance to compete in the world market, he said. "We want to create new industries, commerce, and create a [dynamic] economy from the bottom up, and we want to do this with our own initiative.

"We want to make sure that our economic growth is shared by all, and especially the poor," he

added. "We realize that good governance is the key to that dream.

"In Madagascar, we have developed a clear vision of the future," he said. "Our vision is to preserve our natural resources, while at the same time to build on them. We want to increase agricultural production, create new industries and commerce, with good governance, democracy, rule of law and elimination of corruption."

"We must create passion [with our endeavors]," Ravalomanana said, "so that the world will have a passion for Africa."

President Mwanawasa echoed those sentiments, seeing the new agenda as a further step toward independence in an interdependent world.

"After the end of colonial rule, we fought for our political independence; now we must fight for our economic independence. Yes, we must depend on foreign investment, but we want Africans to be empowered; we want investors to invest and to empower our people -- not to leave with all of their profits, because foreign investment will be more effective if the local people can benefit," he said.

Targeting his remarks to the businessmen in the audience, he declared: "When you invest in Africa's economies, you improve America's economy."

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

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## Agriculture Specialists Examine U.S.-Africa Trade Progress

By Bruce Greenberg  
Washington File Staff Writer

Baltimore, Maryland -- The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has helped level the playing field for Africa's access to U.S. agricultural markets, but American tariffs and subsidies are still blocking full access by Africa's farm producers, according to a panel of agricultural specialists participating in the 2005 Corporate Council on Africa U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Baltimore June 21-24.

Rosa Whittaker, former assistant U.S. trade representative (USTR) for Africa, while acknowledging the steps forward, pointed to some of the basic problems that need to be overcome if African agriculture is to make a place for itself on world markets.



Rosa Whittaker

She stressed that diversification is vital if Africa is to become more than just an exporter of raw materials. "Africa must move from subsistence farming, a common phenomenon throughout sub-Saharan Africa, to a more organized system of crop selection, crop growing, packaging and delivery," she said.

Other issues she noted were the need to develop Africa's infrastructure to replace poor transportation systems, which often delay bringing fresh produce to market, as well as the need to make large-scale investment in research and training to create facilities for African farm producers to both raise

and maintain output levels to meet world market demands.

Patrick Coleman, an agricultural economist and director for African affairs in the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, looked on the bright side. "African agriculture is ripe for transformation, hungry for investment -- and the technology needed for production, distribution and transportation to help promote marketing, and the future of AGOA, depend on the work [done] in these areas," he said.

AGOA has become "the cornerstone of our African trade policy," Coleman declared, providing Africans access to the \$11 billion U.S. market. It also allows Africans to diversify their exports while adding to the growth of their job markets, he said. "Ninety percent of African imports now enter the U.S. duty free," he added, with AGOA allowing for greater U.S.-Africa farm trade. But, he said, "I'd like to see more countries involved and more products traded."

At present, 66 percent of all U.S. agricultural trade with sub-Saharan Africa involves primarily three countries, South Africa, Madagascar and Cote d'Ivoire, Coleman said. "With Cote d'Ivoire, it's cocoa; Madagascar, vanilla beans; and with South Africa, you see much more of a diversity of products coming in [from citrus fruits to wines]."

"Under AGOA, South Africa is now the Number 1 foreign supplier of fresh oranges, with over \$26 million in such exports entering the U.S. in 2004, holding about 45 percent of the U.S. citrus market, which is pretty remarkable," he said. "South African wine exports likewise have increased [under AGOA] up to \$18.2 million, an increase of 41 percent over the previous year."

Coleman conceded that Europe-Africa agricultural trade is still higher than U.S.-Africa agricultural trade -- in part because of former colonial connections -- with 60 percent of Africa's agricultural exports going to Europe while only 6 percent makes its way to the U.S. market. But he looked at this as "an opportunity for growth in the U.S.-Africa agricultural relationship."

Coleman outlined some of the changes occurring in African agricultural sectors, largely the result of liberal trade legislation like AGOA, spurred by increased and more open trade: pooling resources to automate farm production; farming through cooperatives, rather than individual "mom and pop" plots; changing land tenure systems and land ownership.

"In Madagascar, with reforms come greater capital investment opportunities. Africans are more apt to innovate and to take advantage of changes and fluctuations in the U.S. trade market, and fine-tune their trade options accord-

*(Continued on page 17)*



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## High-Level Congressional Hearing on Sudan Raises Africa's Profile

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The profile of Africa in the United States Congress was given a big boost June 22 when African issues -- normally the province of the subcommittee on Africa -- were raised before the full Committee on Foreign Relations. Senior members of the House of Representatives called in Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick to express their concern over the continuing ethnic violence in Sudan's western region of Darfur.

The two-hour testimony by Zoellick, America's second-ranking diplomat after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, is a departure from the standard practice of having lower-ranking officers at the assistant secretary level testify before Congress and reflects the special interest Zoellick has taken in African affairs. Previously, Zoellick was the U.S. Trade Representative, and in that role he helped negotiate trade agreements with Morocco and South Africa.

Indicative of his interests is his assertion to the lawmakers that he might return to Sudan July 9 when the Government of National Unity is to be formed as agreed in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that was signed in Nairobi, Kenya, in January between the government in Khartoum and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

At the hearing, the lawmakers

agreed with Zoellick, who had visited Sudan and Darfur only three weeks before, that the violence -- mainly against civilians -- is "an extraordinary tragedy" that threatens to unravel a recent accord the U.S. government helped facilitate, which has the potential for bringing a lasting peace to Sudan's 20-year civil war.



Displaced Sudanese children are seen here in the Darfur region, May 2005.

At the hearing, Representative Tom Lantos (Democrat of California), the only survivor of the Holocaust ever elected to Congress, told Zoellick he felt a "particular kinship to the people of Darfur. The genocide in Darfur is not just an African crisis. It is a crisis of all humanity, and as such it obligates all of us to act with great urgency," he said.

Both Congress and the State Department have officially termed the killing of an estimated 160,000 to 300,000 civilians in Darfur "genocide," while the United Nations has classified it as a "crime

against humanity." Regardless of which term is used, both charges "compel us to act" to end the slaughter, Zoellick told the committee.

"There appears to be less violence but increased banditry" since 2,700 peacekeepers from the African Union (AU) entered Darfur, Zoellick said. He told lawmakers he supported the AU plan to expand that force to more than 7,000 sometime before September.

On possible NATO intervention, Zoellick said he discussed with both NATO and European Union officials ways to provide transport and logistical and planning support but considered it a great challenge to have NATO intervene directly with troops in Darfur.

Committee Chairman Henry Hyde (Republican of Illinois) captured the anger many of his more than 20 colleagues felt toward the Khartoum government: "In Darfur today, the Sudanese government is employing many of the same tactics it used in the South. Over 2 million Darfurians have been forced from their homes, entire villages have been razed, and there are widespread reports of arbitrary killings, abductions, looting, torture and rape" committed, in part, by government-supported militias called the jingaweit.

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## Financial Experts Discuss Africa's Economic . . .

(Continued from page 4)

"remains on the periphery of the global economy and still remains vulnerable to shocks and swings in commodity prices."

Africa needs to open its trade with the rest of the world, he said, and African governments need to encourage the growth of the private sector and conserve their revenues for future generations. Debt reduction and debt forgiveness will have a positive impact on African economies, he added.

Many African countries can create a stronger investment climate by opening their financial sectors to foreign banking institutions, as Ghana has, Loevinger said. These institutions, he explained, not only bring in needed capital, but also bring state of the art management techniques and greater competition, which benefits the domestic banking business.

He said that much more progress must be made in increasing trade among African nations, which is now only around 10 percent. "We at Treasury believe that there will

not be more intraregional trade until there is more intraregional investment, encouraging other African countries to invest their capital in other African economies," as South Africa has.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## High-Level Congressional Hearing on Sudan . . .

(Continued from page 8)

Looking at the long term, Hyde said, the temptation must be resisted "to focus solely on the crisis in Darfur at the expense of solidifying the historic North-South peace accord [CPA]."

Zoellick said the accord is the cornerstone to peace in Sudan's long civil war because it "creates a political and constitutional framework for sharing authority and wealth" that it is hoped will end the conflicts in Darfur and other regions in Sudan.

He cautioned that implementation of the CPA, which he termed part of the "upward spiral" of progress, is being jeopardized by the "ongoing tragedy in Darfur [that] will preclude U.S. and other sup-

port for the new government and CPA implementation."

On the humanitarian side, Zoellick told lawmakers, "The good news for now is that food is flowing" to Darfur, pointing out that 86 percent of that aid comes from the United States.

Despite outside help, Zoellick said repeatedly, it is important that Africans take ownership of the peace process in Sudan for it to be lasting. In that regard, he said peace talks in Abuja between the Sudanese government and rebels are a good step and it is important for "the AU to lead" in such efforts. He said the U.S. government is playing a supportive role by working with U.N. representatives in Sudan, with partner coun-

tries and with the SPLM leadership and "U.S. officials [are] on the scene."

Asked by Representative Donald Payne (Democrat of New Jersey) if a U.S. special envoy to Sudan should be named, Zoellick said he had raised the issue with Secretary Rice and that it was of "symbolic importance." However, he added, "right now, I've been serving as [de facto] special envoy," and he said he was inclined to maintain that position to keep the process moving forward.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## U.S. Agency Helps Mozambique Bring Cashew Nuts to U.S. Market

Mozambique is introducing its new Zambique-brand cashew nuts to the U.S. market, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced on June 22 during the biennial U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Baltimore, Maryland.

The introduction of African products for sale in the United States and in other global markets, "underscores the essence of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, legislation that provides trade preferences to countries making progress in legal, economic and human rights reforms," according to USAID.

"Realizing Mozambique cashews in the global marketplace reflects the integrated approach of USAID's new Agriculture Development Strategy, and its targeted focus for developing countries," said Lloyd Pierson, USAID's assistant administrator for the bureau for Africa.

Following is the text of the USAID press release.

U.S. Agency for International Development  
USAID Press Release  
June 22, 2005

BALTIMORE, MD -- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that the country of Mozambique is launching its newly branded Zambique cashew nut for export to the United States and global markets. The announcement was made in Baltimore, Md., during the Corporate Council on Africa's (CCA) fifth biennial U.S.-Africa Business Summit, a forum to promote U.S. in-

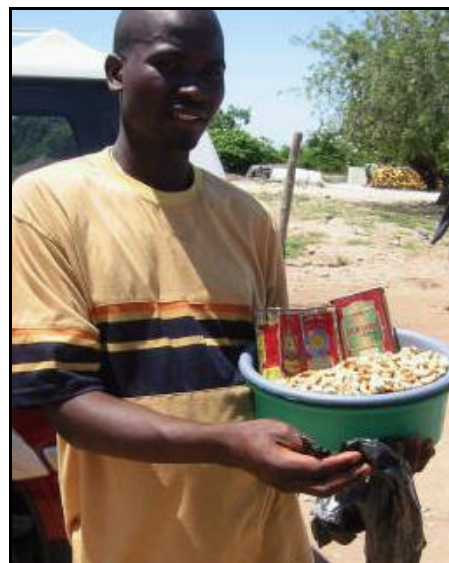
vestment in Africa.

Introducing African products for sale in the U.S. and in other global markets underscores the essence of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), legislation that provides trade preferences to countries making progress in legal, economic and human rights reforms. In July 2004, President Bush signed into law the AGOA Acceleration Act, which extends duty-free access to the U.S. through 2015 for nearly all products Africans produce and export.

Building on the success of AGOA, the CCA Summit serves as an opportunity to amplify dialogue about the pace of economic growth and development in Africa, just one month before the 2005 AGOA Forum in Dakar, Senegal. The Forum will bring together senior U.S. administration officials, African government ministers and hundreds of U.S. and African business and civil society stakeholders to exchange ideas and information critical to AGOA's continued success.

"Through the compassion of the American people, USAID is at the forefront of the U.S. commitment to better the economic landscape and the reduction of poverty in Africa," said Lloyd Pierson, USAID's Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Africa, who attended the Zambique cashew nut launch with USAID partner TechnoServe. "Realizing Mozambique cashews in the global marketplace reflects the integrated approach of USAID's new Agriculture Development Strategy, and its targeted focus for developing countries."

Through President Bush's Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) Initiative, USAID manages three regional "Hubs for Global Competitiveness" in southern, eastern and western Africa to improve public services that support trade, build African capacity for trade policy formulation, and strengthen the environment for Af-



Local sale of cashew nuts

rican businesses.

AGOA-eligible Mozambique falls under the Southern Africa Trade Hub in Botswana, which has provided AGOA training to more than 250 small to medium-sized businesses in Mozambique, Botswana and Malawi. These seminars improve understanding of the U.S. market requirements.

(end text)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## Art of Nigeria's Urhobo People Connects Past and Present Cultures

By Aviva Altmann  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- "African art is not only in the past, but [it is] an exemplary art form that continues today," museum director Sharon Patten declared in describing a new exhibition that connects ancestral traditions with the everyday world of the Urhobo people of modern Nigeria.

"Where Gods and Mortals Meet: Continuity and Renewal in Urhobo Art," which opens at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art June 23, weaves together ancestral and modern sculptures, paintings, prints, masks, and dances of the Urhobo to show how their traditions are passed down through the generations and continue to define the culture of the people.

The exhibition provides a comprehensive perspective on the Urhobo culture with its use of many art forms, including monumental shrine figures, water spirit masks, and photographs and videos of various Urhobo dances, as well as paintings and prints by Urhobo artist Bruce Onobrakpeya.

Patten describes the exhibition as "an intimate look at the lives of the Urhobo peoples of Nigeria. It deals with the efforts of present-day Urhobo to preserve and transmit knowledge of their ancestral culture in the face of their worldwide diaspora."

Each of the exhibition's six sections focuses on core ideals of the Urhobo. The sections intricately illustrate the importance the Urhobo placed on family and ancestry; religion; ideals of male aggression,



One of Urhobo arts at the exhibition

sion, hunting and powerful speaking; the importance and beauty of women; and the connection between the land and the water.

Perkins Foss, curator of "Where Gods and Mortals Meet," has researched the Urhobo for nearly 40 years and has won many awards for his work, including recognition as chief by the Orogun and Ewvreni tribes. He says this is the first exhibition devoted exclusively to the art and culture of the Urhobo people.

The Urhobo people live along the western edge of the Niger River Delta in southern Nigeria. The Ethiopie and Forcados rivers border the Urhobo land in the north and

south, respectively. This prevalence of water in their land has caused the Urhobos to feel a deep connection to water, Foss says. He theorizes that "art is great where land and water meet," and this is shown throughout the exhibition in Urhobo works that hail the land and water prominently through dance.

Featured among the many art pieces in the exhibition are sculptures of the Iphri, which are statues that are used by individuals and communities to symbolize aggression. The Iphri take the form of what the exhibition labels "a fantastic four-legged beast with multiple layers of teeth." Riding atop the beast is the owner, who not only appears to be riding it but also seems to be emerging from the beast's body. The Iphri remind the Urhobo to emulate "being a good soldier, a good public speaker, and being able to stay calm and cool in the midst of aggression," Foss said.

The artist most represented in "Where Gods and Mortals Meet" is Bruce Onobrakpeya, whose prints illustrate Urhobo mythology and folklore in a contemporary, pan-Nigerian form. His prints, which make up a majority of the show, blend imagery from past and present art forms to create an overall picture showcasing the interdependence of past and present ideals in Urhobo culture.

The exhibition runs from June 23 through September 25 at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of African Art. ♦



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## Geldof, Bono praise Bush before Group of Eight Summit in Scotland

By Jim Fisher-Thompson  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush is not a rock star or a producer but he has used the power of his presidency to aid Africans beset by the seemingly intractable challenges of poverty and disease more than anyone on the planet, according to two celebrity activists who are dedicated to keeping Africa's plight in the forefront of world attention.

"[Bush] has actually done more than any American president for Africa," British producer Bob Geldof, who is the leading organizer of the "Live 8" concerts that are being held worldwide on July 2 to raise awareness of Africa's development needs, told Time Magazine recently.

Bono, lead singer of the Irish band U2 and longtime activist for aid to Africa, echoed Geldof's praise for President Bush as he told an American television interviewer June 26, "[Bush] has already doubled and tripled aid to Africa .... I think he has done an incredible job, his administration, on AIDS. 250,000 Africans are on anti-viral drugs; they literally owe their lives to America."

As for an overall legacy, Bono said of Bush: "If he, though, in his second term, is as bold in his commitments to Africa as he was in the first term, he indeed deserves a place in history in turning the fate of that continent around."

Government statistics indicate that American assistance to Africa -- on all levels, private sector as well as government -- are at an all-time high reflecting an in-



**Bono, lead singer of the band U2**

creased awareness of the continent's needs by the president who pledged more funding, especially to combat HIV/AIDS, during a trip to the continent in July 2003.

Now, both Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have pledged to make aid to sub-Saharan Africa a central topic at the upcoming meeting of the Group of Eight Nations (or G8, consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) in Gleneagles, Scotland, set for July 6-8. They have also been the prime movers behind a recent announcement by developed nations' finance ministers of a massive debt reduction for 14 nations in sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition, Blair is pushing a plan of action for development aid to Africa put together by an organization he established called the Commission for Africa (CfA). It calls

for a doubling of the more than \$25 billion in annual aid that currently goes to the continent.

On June 13, when President Bush met with five African leaders, he assured them: "The United States is committing to expanding our efforts to relieve, hunger, reduce debt, fight disease on the African continent."

Calling AIDS "one of the greatest causes of suffering in Africa, the president told them he made combating the disease in Africa "a top priority of my administration. This crisis is one that can be arrested. And I want you all to know that when America makes a commitment, we mean what we say," he emphasized.



**British producer Bob Geldof**

That commitment involves a worldwide emergency plan for

*(Continued on page 14)*

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## Development Requires Aid Plus Good Governance, USAID Chief Says

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations  
Correspondent

United Nations -- Supporting growth and eradicating poverty in developing countries is not only about monetary contributions, but also requires a combination of resource mobilization, trade and investment, and good governance, the top U.S. foreign aid official said June 27.

The United States does not believe that there are any magic aid numbers for achieving successful development and sustained improvements in the quality of life, Andrew Natsios, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), told a special meeting of the U.N. General Assembly. "Development progress is, first and foremost, a function of country commitment and political will to rule justly, promote economic freedom and invest in people."

Natsios spoke at a ministerial-level meeting on financing for development. The two-day session was a follow-up to the historic 2002 development summit in Monterrey, Mexico, that brokered a partnership against poverty. It aimed to give governments an opportunity to consolidate or add to their development packages in support of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals and is a precursor to the Group of Eight (or G8, consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States and

Russia) meeting July 6-8 and to the United Nations' 60th Anniversary Summit in September.

The United States recognizes that the volume of aid and other development resources must increase significantly, Natsios said. "But if we are to continue the recent increases in ODA [Official Development Assistance] and assure that the goals of the Millennium Declaration are achieved, we must also ensure aid effectiveness, sustainability, and results."

He said a report of the U.N. Commission on the Private Sector and Development "estimates that developing countries have \$9.4 trillion dollars in private assets that cannot be fully mobilized, largely because of corruption and inadequate legal protections for property and contracts."

In one developing country, he said, it takes 203 days to register a business, while in another, enforcing a contract takes 1,459 days. Such barriers to entrepreneurship keep businesses small and informal.

"There is no point in debating whether ODA should be \$68 billion or \$100 billion or \$195 billion when the most basic policies for generating wealth are not in place," Natsios said.

Natsios said that the United States has increased official development assistance beyond the pledge President Bush made in

Monterrey. U.S. aid has risen from \$10 billion in 2000 to more than \$19 billion in 2004, with a quarter of the total supplied by members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The United States also provides approximately \$500 million annually for voluntary family planning and maternal health care in 60 countries.

Joining with socially responsible private-sector companies, USAID has invested \$1 billion in 290 public-private alliances in 98 countries since 2002, thus leveraging more than \$3 billion in partner resources, he said. Countries that govern justly, invest in their people and support market led growth will receive billions of dollars from the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in coming years, he said.

The MCC administers the Millennium Challenge Account, a supplementary aid program launched by President Bush to reward poor nations that invest in the education and health care of their citizens, fight corruption and promote good governance.

The USAID administrator also praised the New Partnership for African Development, saying the United States is an "enthusiastic supporter." The partnership -- a strategic framework for "Africa's renewal" -- led by the African Union aims to address challenges facing the African continent and work to eradicate poverty, advance sus-

*(Continued on page 14)*

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## Geldof, Bono praise Bush before Group of Eight Summit . . .

*(Continued from page 12)*

AIDS relief focusing on sub-Saharan nations that was allocated about \$780 million to battle the disease in 2004. That amount grew to \$1.1 billion in 2005.

Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick has also placed Africa at the top of his agenda. He told a business-finance gathering in Rwanda in early June: "U.S. development aid to sub-Saharan Africa has risen three to four times (since 2000) to about three to five billion dollars over the past two years."

The private sector adds considerably to the development equation, Zoellick added: "If you take the amount of net private investment, personal remittances to de-

veloping countries, and NGO grants, that amount from the United States totaled \$48 billion last year -- over two and a half times the amount we had in overseas development assistance."

Furthermore, he said, "If you combine development assistance, private capital flows, grants by NGOs, and trade, the United States now supplies 70 percent of the G-7 support to developing nations," which shows how development aid is combined with other capital sources.

To help Africans pursue business-oriented growth, President Bush established the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), an innovative way to help countries increase a better business environment to

attract investment. So far eight countries in sub-Saharan Africa are eligible for its funding and Madagascar has already signed an MCA agreement worth \$110 million to help develop its rural infrastructure.

For additional information on this program, see Millennium Challenge Account ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/mca.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html)).

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## Development Requires Aid Plus Good . . .

*(Continued from page 13)*

tainable growth, enhance Africa's integration in the global economy and accelerate the empowerment of women.

In the plan, he said, "African leaders are linking poverty eradication, sustainable growth, global economic integration, and good governance."

Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the assembly that recent announcements on debt relief and

increases in ODA along with years of hard work "have brought us to the threshold of a breakthrough in our pursuit of development and human dignity."

There is hope today because "many developing countries have succeeded in lifting millions of people out of impoverishment and despair. And there is real momentum because the international community has banded together in a sustained and unprecedented effort," Annan said.

For additional information on U.S. development assistance, see Millennium Challenge Account ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/mca.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html)).

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## U.N. Agency Says \$22 Billion Needed in 2008 To Drive Back AIDS

The latest estimate of funding needed to reverse the spread of AIDS in the developing world is \$22 billion, according to a June 21 press release from the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).

The estimate is featured in a new report on estimated funding needs produced by the UNAIDS Secretariat. The report is scheduled to be officially released to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board at the end of June.

The figure was developed using the latest information and with input from a newly established Resource Needs Steering Committee and Technical Working Group, made up of international economists and AIDS experts from donor and developing countries, civil society, United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

"We have come a long way in mobilizing extra funds for AIDS, moving from millions to billions, but we still fall short of the \$22 billion needed in 2008," said UNAIDS Executive Director Peter Piot.

"AIDS poses an exceptional threat to humanity and the response needs to be equally exceptional, recognizing the urgency as well as the need for long-term planning and financing," he added.

The revised estimates project funding needs of \$15 billion in 2006, \$18 billion in 2007 and \$22 billion in 2008 for prevention, treatment and care, support for orphans and vulnerable children, and program and human resource costs.

According to the latest UNAIDS projections, a total of \$8.3 billion is estimated to be available from all sources in 2005, rising to \$ 8.9 billion and \$10 billion in 2006 and 2007 respectively.

As the response to AIDS is scaled up, funding estimates must be constantly revised and updated, according to the release.

Additional information (<http://www.unaids.org/>) on UNAIDS is available on the agency's Web site.

The text of the UNAIDS press release follows:

(begin text)

The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS  
Press release, June 21, 2005

### **US\$22 BILLION NEEDED IN 2008 TO REVERSE SPREAD OF AIDS**

New report shows resource needs far higher than funding available

Geneva, 21 June 2005 – US\$22 billion will be needed in 2008 to reverse spread of AIDS in the developing world, according to latest estimates. These figures feature in a new report on estimated funding needs produced by the UNAIDS Secretariat, to be released to the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board at the end of June.

Building on previous estimates, these figures have been developed using the latest available information and with the invaluable input from a newly established Resource Needs Steering Committee and Technical Working Group which

are made up of international economists and AIDS experts from donor and developing countries, civil society, United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

"We have come a long way in mobilizing extra funds for AIDS, moving from millions to billions, but we still fall short of the US\$22 billion needed in 2008," said Dr Peter Piot, UNAIDS Executive Director. "AIDS poses an exceptional threat to humanity and the response needs to be equally exceptional, recognizing the urgency as well as the need for long term planning and financing."

The revised estimates indicate funding needs of approximately US \$15 billion in 2006, US\$18 billion in 2007 and US\$22 billion in 2008 for prevention, treatment and care, support for orphans and vulnerable children, as well as programme costs (such as management of AIDS programmes and building of new hospitals and clinics) and human resource costs (includes training and recruitment of new doctors and nurses).

This is the first time that specific attention is given to resource needs for longer term investments to improve country capacity in the health and social sectors through training of existing staff, recruiting and paying new staff and significant investments for building the necessary infrastructure. These financial requirements for the human resources and programme costs are preliminary, and will be further refined and improved. Meeting the 2006-2008 resource needs would result in the following achievements:

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## U.N. Agency Says \$22 Billion Needed in 2008 . . .

(Continued from page 15)

**Prevention** – A comprehensive prevention response by 2010, as is required to turn around the AIDS epidemic, based on the current coverage of services and the most recent evidence on actual rates of scaling up interventions.

**Treatment and care** – 75% of people in need globally (approximately 6.6 million people) will have access to antiretroviral treatment by 2008, based on current coverage rates and rates of growth as seen in 2004.

**Orphans and vulnerable children** – Increase of support from low levels of coverage to full coverage of all orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa, given that AIDS is responsible for more than 2/3 of children who have lost both parents, as well as AIDS orphans in other low and middle-income countries.

**Human resources** – Covering the costs of recruiting and training additional doctors, nurses and community health workers in low-income countries, and two middle-income countries (South Africa and Botswana) and incentives to retain and attract people to the health sector. Future analyses will calculate costs for other health workers, including nurse practitioners, clinical officers and laboratory technicians.

**Programme costs** – The construction of over 1000 new health centres (to be available by 2010),

based on the investments made during 2006-2008. An additional 19,000 health centres and 800 hospitals would be renovated over the next three years to handle the scaling-up of HIV treatment and care.

According to the latest UNAIDS projections, a total of US\$8.3 billion is estimated to be available from all sources in 2005, rising to US\$ 8.9 billion and US\$10 billion in 2006 and 2007 respectively.<sup>2</sup>

As the response to AIDS is scaled up, funding estimates must be constantly revised and updated. UNAIDS will work with international donors and affected countries to refine the costing estimates, focusing particularly on strengthening health infrastructures.

### AIDS Resource needs (US\$ billion)

	2006	2007	2008
Prevention	8,5	10,0	11,4
Treatment and Care	3,0	4,0	5,3
OVC	1,6	2,1	2,7
Programme	1,5	1,4	1,8
Human resource	0,4	0,6	0,9
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,9</b>	<b>18,1</b>	<b>22,1</b>

### NOTE TO EDITORS

<sup>1</sup> UNAIDS has been producing resource needs estimates since 2001. Since that time there has been increased access to relevant data, a continuous improvement in the methodologies and new thinking about what comprises a comprehensive package of interven-

tions to turn back the epidemic. The latest estimates constitute the best available assessment of global needs for AIDS and a rational basis for further discussion about AIDS funding in the international arena. The coverage levels presented in the analysis should not be considered as agreed targets, but the outcomes that could be expected if these resources were spent.

<sup>2</sup> It appears that there is a funding gap between resources available and those needed of at least US \$18 billion from 2005 to 2007. However, this is likely to be a significant underestimate. Determining the gap between resources available and resource needs is not a matter of simple subtraction. The resources available are based on pledges rather than budgets that have been finalized by governments; actual disbursements to countries are generally less than the total commitments; and the resources available are not necessarily being spent on the same sets of interventions that have been included in the resource needs estimations.

(For more information on UN-AIDS, please visit [www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org) (<http://www.unaids.org/>).

(end text)

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## Agriculture Specialists Examine U.S.-Africa . . .

*(Continued from page 7)*

ingly to determine what particular products may be more competitive," Coleman explained.

"Marketing surveys done by Madagascar, and trade discussions with U.S. partners are resulting in a more diverse vanilla bean product line: vanilla extracts, spices, oils and perfumes; Ghana, now sending processed cocoa butter, in addition to its cocoa beans; Uganda, not just exporting coffee beans, but roasting specialty coffees. So in order to maximize the benefits of AGOA trading, African countries are learning to diversify their product lines," he said.

For additional information, see African Growth and Opportunity Act ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade\\_economic\\_development/agoa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development/agoa.html)).

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## Experimental Vaccine Protects Animals from Deadly Lassa Fever

U.S. and Canadian scientists have developed a vaccine against Lassa fever that protects monkeys from experimental infection with lethal doses of Lassa virus, according to a June 27 press release from the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID).

The research could lead to development of a human vaccine. No preventive measure is available today to halt the spread of Lassa fever, other than control of the rodents that transmit the viral disease to humans.

Lassa fever is a hemorrhagic disease that is common in parts of West Africa, where the number of infections per year is an estimated 100,000-300,000, with 5,000

deaths, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The illness has also been imported by travelers to the United States and Europe.

Work on the virus, which is considered a potential bioterrorism agent, was funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research and the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

Researchers from USAMRIID and the Public Health Agency of Canada developed the vaccine by inserting genetic material from the Lassa virus into a nonpathogenic form of another virus, called VSV, as a carrier.

The team immunized four monkeys with a single dose of the

Lassa vaccine and two with only the VSV carrier virus. Four weeks later, all six animals were experimentally infected with a lethal dose of Lassa virus. The four Lassa-vaccinated monkeys survived with no signs of clinical illness; the two other animals died.

The researchers have shown that the VSV strategy also works against the Marburg and Ebola hemorrhagic fevers, and might eventually work against other diseases.

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